

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner objected to the lack of headings in the specification and certain informalities in the specification and drawings. These have been corrected by amendments to the specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The indefiniteness noted has been cured by the amendments to claim 1, to Applicant's belief. These corrections are typographical in nature, resulting from transcription errors in the preliminary amendment.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Moreau et al. ("Moreau"). The rejection is traversed in that Moreau does not disclose a reel provided at the distal end but rather teaches away from such a configuration.

Moreau teaches commonplace technology, shown in Moreau's figure 1 and discussed in col. 6, lines 1-8. Moreau employs a device 15 which is located inside a closed enclosure 14, connected to the inlet end of the tube 1, which device may be a pull-push device comprising a winch for reeling and unreeling the cable 10. There is therefore no doubt that the reel for winding the cable on and off in the Moreau apparatus is located at the proximal end rather than the distal end. As a consequence of this differentiating feature, the Moreau apparatus can pass only limited bends of 3-5 times the tube diameter. The present invention is able to pass bends of a single times the tube diameter as the specification discusses on page 2, lines 8-13. Accordingly, the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Moreau.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Moreau in view of one or more of Marvin et al., Zollingger et al., and Wernicke. The rejection is traversed in that the additional references cited do not cure the deficiencies of Moreau.

Being filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time to February 4, 2003, with the appropriate fee. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and/or claims by the current amendment. The attached paper is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT Ser. No. 09/936,632

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

Please insert the following on page 1 before line 1:

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following on page 1 before line 2:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national entry application of International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/NL00/00163, entitled "Apparatus for the Internal Inspection of Pipes and Tubes and the Like" to Siemen Roelof Van der Heide, et al., having an international filing date of March 10, 2000, and claiming priority to Netherlands Patent Application Serial No. 1011525, having a filing date of March 11, 1999, and the specifications thereof are incorporated herein by reference.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT (Not Applicable)

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISK OR MICROFICHE APPENDIX (Not Applicable)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Please insert the following on page1 after line 19:

--Description of Related Art--

Please insert the following on page 1 after line 31:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following on page 2 after line 3:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION—

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, lines 1-7, to read as follows:

The apparatus further comprises an electronic control unit 5 for the measuring head 2 and a [battery supply] feed device 6 with battery supply for feeding the measuring head 2. As is clearly shown in the Figure, the measuring head 2, the reel 4, the control electronics 5, and the feed device 6 are each individually incorporated in the carrier members that are movable through the pipe or tube 1.

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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for the internal inspection of pipes and tubes or the like, comprising an ultrasonic measuring head and a cable coupled to the measuring head, which cable can be coupled outside the pipe or tube to be measured to a device processing the measuring [date] data, wherein at its distal end and behind the measuring head, the apparatus is provided with a reel for winding the cable on and off.